

DIOCESE OF GALLOWAY SAFEGUARDING BULLETIN



Welcome to the Bulletin

Welcome to the most recent edition of the Diocese of Galloway's Safeguarding Bulletin.

There was no March bulletin as the Safeguarding team were extremely busy! This is therefore a full update of activity since February.

Following the completion of parish audits, the diocesan audit was also completed, followed by an Action Plan for the year ahead. Both documents have been submitted to BCOS and, following an upcoming meeting with them to discuss final details, the Action Plan will be published on the Safeguarding pages of the diocesan website.

As detailed in February's bulletin, Helena is coordinating three preparatory meetings for the International Safeguarding Conference in June. Thank you to all those from Galloway who signed up, and participated in the first meeting on 16th March. A report has been sent to the Conference committee, and the two remaining meetings have been scheduled.

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NATIONAL SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE—SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2022

Following last year's National Safeguarding Webinar, this year's Annual Conference will be a hybrid event where people may choose to participate in person, or watch online. Details will be confirmed when they become available, but for now please save the date.

SAFEGUARDING MATTERS: The most recent edition of the national newsletter is available [here](#). Please take the time to read it, as it contains information on the Annual Day of Prayer for Survivors as well as an update on the development of the new independent Scottish Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency, and an overview of the findings of the 2021 Safeguarding Audit. In addition, please see details of the new SCSSA Board members available [here](#).

Deanery Meetings

The spring deanery meetings have taken place, during which a number of issues arose, including the need to welcome volunteers safely back into ministry and, in many parishes, to recruit new volunteers for ministry. *Please bear in mind that nobody can begin ministry without a letter of approval from the diocese.* This letter is issued following the receipt of two references, an unblemished PVG, and attendance at Part 1 Induction Training. If a volunteer's recruitment needs to be expedited for any reason, the Safeguarding office will always try to facilitate this. At the request of PSC's, a one-off newsletter for volunteers will soon be issued.

SAFEGUARDING RISK ASSESSMENTS

A small working group is continuing work to develop an electronic risk assessment tool, which will contain drop-down boxes with pre-populated information for volunteers to use. A short training video will be created to guide people through its use. It is hoped that this will be trialled by Galloway and Glasgow before the end of this year.

HOMES FOR UKRAINE

Helena has received several enquiries regarding the Homes for Ukraine scheme. While there are certainly safeguarding considerations, a person or family's decision to provide shelter for refugees is a personal decision and not a Church safeguarding matter. However, safeguarding support should be available from your local council offices. In the event that a parish wishes to establish a ministry specifically for refugees, or a parish property is used to house refugees, the diocesan safeguarding team will be happy to help.

SAFE RECRUITMENT

The application form to commence ministries will soon be able to be completed online; more information to follow.

SOCIAL MEDIA SHARING

[This link](#) can be used to share this document on Facebook while retaining the hyperlinks. Thank you to all the parishes who are doing so.

TRAINING UPDATES

Recent deanery meetings, and parish audit returns, have highlighted the need for both refresher training for parish volunteers who are returning to ministry after a two year hiatus, and a full rollout of Part 2 Induction Training, which was halted when the pandemic began. Caritas students will shortly provide a short refresher video, which will be emailed to all parishes for inclusion on websites, social media etc. Volunteers can be encouraged to watch this in their own time to refresh the key safeguarding messages in their mind. To arrange Part 1 training for new volunteers, and Part 2 training, please contact the designated person indicated at your deanery meeting, or visit gallowaydiocese.org.uk/training to contact a local trainer who can make arrangements with you. *All new volunteers must complete Part 1 training before commencing ministry; all other volunteers must attend Part 2 training if they have not already done so.*

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